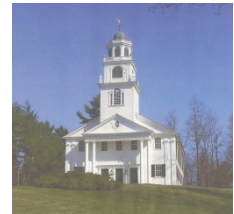




Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society NEWSLETTER



Westmoreland, NH 03467

www.westmorelandhistoricalsociety.org

March

2014

Officers: John Harris, Director; Hugh Shelley, Asst. Director, Jan Hurley, Treasurer; Patti Seymour, Clerk/Secretary;
Walter Carroll, Property Manager; Jan Carpenter, Archivist.

Message from the Directors

The birds are finally starting to sing in spite of all of the snow still on the ground and the relentless cold. Hopefully, our exciting Spring programs will entice you to come out of your winter hibernation and meet with friends and neighbors.

We are an active organization.

Please mark your calendar and join your neighbors at a few of these events.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
April 6 (SUNDAY)	Rebecca Rule – Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in NH, the Present, the Past and the Future	3 PM	Town Hall
April 27 (SUNDAY)	Spring clean-up at Corner School Executive Committee Meeting	1 PM 3 PM	Corner School
May 5 (MONDAY)	Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden – Scuba Diving in the Connecticut River between Westmoreland and Bellows Falls	7 PM	Corner School
May 23 (MONDAY)	Ghost search – David Currier of the Central NH Paranormal Society will visit the PHMH and Corner School	7 PM	Meet at Park Hill Meeting House first and travel to Corner School
June 2 (MONDAY)	David Currier of the Central NH Paranormal Society will present findings from the Corner School and Meeting House	7 PM	Park Hill Meeting House
July 27 (MONDAY)	Annual Meeting	3 PM	Park Hill Meeting House

Spring Programs



Rebecca Rule – Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in NH, the Present, the Past and the Future (a Humanities-to-Go program)

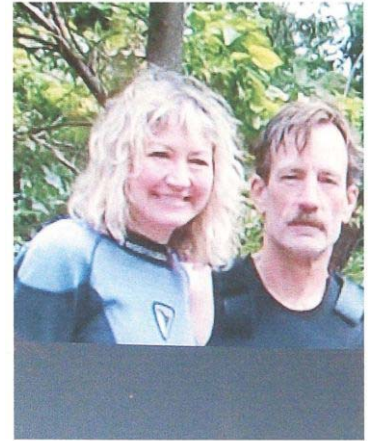
Sunday, April 6, 3 PM at Town Hall followed by Pot Luck Supper [PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME]; 780 Rt. #63, South Village, Westmoreland, NH

Taking stories from her very educational book by the same name, this well-known author has been collecting and telling stories of New Hampshire and New England for more than fifteen years. She appears on PBS from time to time and has an Honorary Doctor of Humane letters from New England College. Becky regales her audience with stories of the rituals, traditions and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor and the wisdom of this uniquely New England institution. All members of the Society and residents are welcome to the FREE program. Those wishing to remain for more conversation with Rebecca and supper are asked to bring either a main dish, salad or dessert to share.

Annette Spaulding & Patrick Madden - Scuba Diving in the Connecticut River between Westmoreland and Bellows Falls

Monday, May 5th, 7PM at Corner School House, Corner of River & Poocham Roads, Westmoreland

This is a return visit for the very active and interesting couple who will bring us up-to-date on their finds and new experiences while scuba diving in the Connecticut River in the Westmoreland and Bellows Falls areas. Known as Dolphin Underwater Professionals, LLC, Annett and Patrick have been diving for over 25 years and have worked with numerous police agencies in recovery of evidence in Vermont, New Hampshire and other states and countries. They will refresh your memory of their finding remaining timbers from the “Elephant Bridge” and describe how they more recently found and recovered some mill stones as well as other adventures.



David Currier of the Central NH Paranormal Society



Monday, June 2nd, 7PM at Park Hill Meeting House, Rt. 63, on the Common @ Park Hill, Westmoreland

David and his colleagues will report on their experiences and ghostly findings discovered while visiting our two historic buildings in Westmoreland, the Corner School House and the Park Hill Meeting House. Discussion and question period will follow when members of the audience will be encouraged to speak about any paranormal experiences they have had.

Changes at Our Historic Town Hall



If you haven't been in the Town Hall lately, be sure to stop in and admire the great paint job on the ceiling of the first floor meeting room and the hallway and, have you noticed the attractive plaques in front of the Town Hall? At the suggestion of Dick Schmidt, the old telephone stanchion was “recycled” and put to good use by the Town Hall Improvement Committee.

The top plaque indicates that the present Town Hall built in 1916 is now on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places and the bottom plaque shows what the previous Town Hall looked like when the first Old Home Day took place in 1900 and prior to the fire in 1915. Originally built as one story, a few years before the whole building was raised and the “first floor” added.

Recent Donations

A wonderful copy of an old map was recently given by Paula Page to Jim Ranson entitled “1741-1900 Map of Westmoreland”. A key to this map had been previously located in our Archives so we are now able to put the two together. It contains the years, locations and notes about many areas and historical facts.

Several nice old photos and post cards have been donated to the Society this year by Pat Bentrup. We always appreciate having old Westmoreland items offered for our Archives.

Historical Note (From the Key to 1741-1900 Map of Westmoreland)

Can you follow their route?

General John Stark led his troops from Concord, NH to the Battle of Bennington through Westmoreland. "From the Maynard place on Hurricane Rd. he went over a bridle path to the Woodchuck Rd., thence past the Forrest Hall place, proceeding on the old road past the George Leach blacksmith shop, following the old Post Rd. over the hill to Granger Hollow, over Daggett Hill and Nims Hill to Federal Hill. The road from Nims Hill to Federal Hill followed the side of the mountain going past the old Gannett place."

Newest Book

Our recently published *In the Shadow of Cedars* by Charles Butterfield is selling well. Readers will decide whether Isaac Butterfield of Westmoreland was a patriot or a disgrace as he was branded by Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Isaac was with 390 hastily gathered militia at the incomplete fort on the St. Lawrence River called Cedars on May 19, 1776. He made the decision to surrender when confronted by British Captain George Forster with several hundred Indians and British Regulars.

The book may be purchased by sending a check for \$19.95 plus \$4.00 for shipping/postage or you may call Jan Carpenter (399-7075) to arrange to pick it up.

In addition, a package of five note cards or a print of the painting for the book cover done by Maisie Crowther are available for \$5.00 each.

Successful Home for the Holidays Fair

Our booth at the "Home for the Holidays" fair on Dec. 8, 2013 was manned by Members of the Society and many books and other items were sold.

Ongoing Maintenance

The primary reason for the existence of this Society is and always has been to maintain the Park Hill Meeting House and the Corner School House. Both are on the Historic Register and we are duty-bound to keep them in good repair. Bids are being sought to paint the steeple on the Meeting House, and during the Town Meeting, the town will vote whether to provide \$1,500, which is nearly half the cost of repairs and painting needed for the exterior of the Corner School House. Additionally, we hope to be able to install a handrail on the front steps of the School House to make navigating the granite steps a little easier. Donations for either building are greatly appreciated.

Cellar Hole Research

John Harris and Jim Ranson have gathered a number of people who are anxious for Spring to arrive so the Cellar Hole Research project can get under way. If you would like to join one of the groups please call John or Jim. A program in the Fall will be scheduled when Jim will report on some interesting findings.

Archive Closet

The Society maintains an Archive in the Town Hall where many interesting artifacts of the town can be seen. The minor problems in the closet have been resolved with the window repair, an upgrade to the electric wiring and an additional metal rack for storage of our books to be sold.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR 2014 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
(July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014) IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY.**

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM
THE WESTMORELAND PARK HILL MEETING HOUSE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JULY 1, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2014

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Individual Membership	\$ 10.00	Individual Lifetime Membership	\$100.00
Household	\$ 15.00	Household Lifetime Membership	\$150.00
Organization or Business	\$ 25.00		

Please accept my additional tax exempt (501(c)(3)) donation of \$ _____.

Make your check payable to The Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House and Historical Society.

Mail check to: Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House and Historical Society P.O. Box 105 Westmoreland, NH 03467

Time and Talent

Please check any and all ways you are willing to help out with the public events and tasks of the Corner School and the Meeting House. Most activities are for a few hours once a year.

<input type="checkbox"/>	cleaning/painting	<input type="checkbox"/>	baking	<input type="checkbox"/>	planning events	<input type="checkbox"/>	phoning	<input type="checkbox"/>	publicity
<input type="checkbox"/>	annual tag sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	open house guide	<input type="checkbox"/>	general maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	serving on a committee		

Other talents and expertise you have that you are willing to share to help the Society: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Westmoreland Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society
P.O. Box 105
Westmoreland, NH 03467